CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

providing controlled kinetic energy.

2. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy affects another satellite.

3. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to move a satellite.

4. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to rescue a satellite.

5. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to repair a satellite.

6. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to transport a payload to a satellite.

7. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to transport a payload from a satellite.

8. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to transport a payload to a celestial body.

9. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is used to transport a payload from a celestial body.

10. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing controlled kinetic energy is sold.

11. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing controlled kinetic energy is leased for a specified task.

12. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing controlled kinetic energy is leased for a specified time.

13. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which a customer who uses said nuclear powered vehicle for providing controlled kinetic energy is charged according to a specified rate.

14. A method as recited in Claim 13, in which said specified rate is determined by a quantity of mass in orbit that is moved by said controlled kinetic energy.

15. A method as recited in Claim 14, in which said specified rate is determined by a distance that said quantity of mass in orbit that is moved by said controlled kinetic energy.

16. A method as recited in Claim 14, in which said specified rate is determined by a change in an orbital parameter that is altered by said controlled kinetic energy.

17. A method as recited in Claim 16, in which said orbital parameter is altitude.

18. A method as recited in Claim 16, in which said orbital parameter is apogee.

19. A method as recited in Claim 16, in which said orbital parameter is perigee.

20. A method as recited in Claim 16, in which said orbital parameter is inclination.

21. A method as recited in Claim 1, in which said controlled kinetic energy is provided to a plurality of customers.

22. A method as recited in Claim 21, in which said plurality of customers utilize said controlled kinetic energy on a time-share basis.

23. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

generating electrical energy on board said nuclear powered vehicle.

24. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to affect another satellite.

25. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to move a satellite.

26. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to rescue a satellite.

27. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to repair a satellite.

28. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to transport a payload to a satellite.

29. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to transport a payload from a satellite.

30. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to transport a payload to a celestial body.

31. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is used to transport a payload from a celestial body.

32. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing electrical energy is sold.

33. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing electrical energy is traded.

34. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing electrical energy is leased for a specified task.

35. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing electrical energy is leased for a specified time.

36. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which a customer who uses said nuclear powered vehicle for providing electrical energy is charged according to a specified rate.

37. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said specified rate is determined by a quantity of mass in orbit that is moved by said electrical energy.

38. A method as recited in Claim 37, in which said specified rate is determined by a distance that said quantity of mass in orbit that is moved by said electrical energy.

39. A method as recited in Claim 37, in which said specified rate is determined by a change in an orbital parameter that is altered by said electrical energy.

40. A method as recited in Claim 39, in which said orbital parameter is altitude.

41. A method as recited in Claim 39, in which said orbital parameter is apogee.

42. A method as recited in Claim 39, in which said orbital parameter is perigee.

43. A method as recited in Claim 39, in which said orbital parameter is inclination.

44. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is produced by a nuclear reactor on board said nuclear powered vehicle.

45. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is conveyed to another satellite.

46. A method as recited in Claim 45, in which said electrical energy is conveyed to another satellite using a conductive link connected to another satellite.

47. A method as recited in Claim 45, in which said electrical energy is conveyed to another satellite using a radiated energy beam.

48. A method as recited in Claim 45, in which said electrical energy is conveyed to another satellite by first storing said electrical energy on board said nuclear powered vehicle in a storage device, and then physically delivering said storage device to another satellite.

49. A method as recited in Claim 48, in which said storage device is a battery.

50. A method as recited in Claim 48, in which said storage device is a fuel cell.

51. A method as recited in Claim 23, in which said electrical energy is provided to a plurality of customers.

52. A method as recited in Claim 51, in which said plurality of customers utilize said electrical energy on a time-share basis.

53. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

processing information on board said nuclear powered vehicle.

54. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to affect another satellite.

55. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to move a satellite.

56. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to rescue a satellite.

57. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to repair a satellite.

58. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to transport a payload to a satellite.

59. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to transport a payload from a satellite.

60. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to transport a payload to a celestial body.

61. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used to transport a payload from a celestial body.

62. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing said information is sold.

63. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing said information is leased for a specified task.

64. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said nuclear powered vehicle for providing said information is leased for a specified time.

65. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which a customer who uses said nuclear powered vehicle for providing said information is charged according to a specified rate.

66. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is conveyed to another satellite.

67. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is conveyed to a receiver generally near a celestial body.

68. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is conveyed using a radio signal.

69. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said said information is provided to a plurality of customers.

70. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which a customer is charged for receiving said information by the packet conveyed.

71. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used for reconnaissance.

72. A method as recited in Claim 53, in which said information is used for surveillance.

73. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

using said nuclear powered vehicle for emanating direct broadcast signals to a receiver generally near a celestial body.

74. A method as recited in Claim 73, in which a customer is charged for receiving said direct broadcast signals by the packet conveyed.

75. A method as recited in Claim 73, in which a customer is charged for receiving said direct broadcast signals per a specified program of content conveyed.

76. A method as recited in Claim 73, in which a customer is charged for receiving said direct broadcast signals according to a measured power flux density of said signals.

77. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

using said nuclear powered vehicle for emanating and receiving telecommunication signals to a receiver generally near a celestial body.

78. A method as recited in Claim 77, in which a customer is charged for using said telecommunication signals by the packet conveyed.

79. A method as recited in Claim 77, in which a customer is charged for using said telecommunication signals according to a measured power flux density of said signals.

80. A method as recited in Claim 77, in which a customer is charged for using said telecommunication signals per a specified program of content conveyed.

81. A method comprising the steps of:

operating a nuclear powered vehicle in orbit; and

generating a propagated signal on board said nuclear powered vehicle.

82. A method as recited in Claim 81, in which said propagated signal conveys data and is radiated to another satellite.

83. A method as recited in Claim 81, in which said propagated signal conveys data and is radiated to a receiver which is generally near a celestial body.

84. A method as recited in Claim 81, in which said propagated signal conveys information.

85. A method as recited in Claim 81, in which said propagated signal conveys usable energy.